

and structure, being told what to do and made to do it, and kept long enough so we've really got some change and made some difference in their lives. As I see the institution we now have, no matter how many programs we put into it, will be more of a punitive situation, and we're going to have the same problem we have now. All we've done is gained about 80 beds to keep people in who have committed serious crimes as adolescents. And under adolescents, in LB 988, that includes young, some younger adults, and it includes both those from the juvenile court and those that have come through with the adult court in the felonies type. Is there any questions, I'd be glad to try and answer them for you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, with all due respect to Senator Pedersen, who works in this area, and I will acknowledge, knows much more about this area than I do, I'm going to oppose his proposed amendment. I've handed out a sheet, it's titled "Youth Secure Confinement Facility Justification" dated March 20, and I'm going to take a minute to go down the line because I think it's very serious. I think we are probably reaching at the heart of the philosophical difference of what to do with criminals today in our society, those that feel that we can rehabilitate them all, apparently 100 percent, maybe that's a stretch, versus those that would lock up and throw away the key, so to speak. I'm somewhere in the middle there and I think the Appropriations Committee has worked through this. We have become convinced that we do need some kind of secure youth facility for, for those persons that are called that or classified as that. Currently, Nebraska does not have any juvenile facility to serve the most violent offenders. We have now them serving in adult prisons, which obviously is not a good situation. It is true that if we would build this today we could fill it tomorrow, that is true. But it also says that we are overcrowded in many areas of our population where these juveniles should not be. The youth secure confinement facility is a maximum security facility for the 5 to 10 percent most chronic youthful offenders under the age of 18, convicted by juvenile or adult courts. These are youth convicted of homicide, assault, use of weapons, sex offenses, and robbery. The intent of LB 447 in 1992 and LB 988 in 1994 was to begin redesigning the juvenile justice system to